

Tippecanoe County Board of Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 5, 2022

10:00 am

Tippecanoe Room, Tippecanoe County Office Building
20 N 3rd Street, Lafayette, Indiana

Commissioners present President David S. Byers, Vice President Tracy A. Brown, and Member Thomas P. Murtaugh.

Also present: Attorney Doug Masson, Auditor Robert Plantenga, Commissioners' Assistant Paula Bennett, and Recording Secretary Samantha Perez.

- I. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – President Byers called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from Monday, November 21, 2022.
 - Commissioner Brown moved to approve the minutes as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh. Motion carried.
- III. **PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** – Paula Bennett presented and recommended:

The claims from November 30, 2022, through December 5, 2022, were recommended for approval without exception.

 - Commissioner Murtaugh moved to approve the Accounts Payable as presented, second by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.
- IV. **PRESENTATION OF PAYROLL** – Paula Bennett presented and recommended:

The payroll from November 23, 2022, was recommended for approval without exception.

 - Commissioner Brown moved to approve the payroll as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh. Motion carried.
- V. **OPENING OF BIDS FOR THE TIPPECANOE COUNTY VILLA ADA UPGRADES**

Tippecanoe County Attorney Doug Masson opened the following bids:

PHASE 1 BIDS:

1. General Trades	
A. Big Ben Builders, Inc.	\$277,353
2. Electrical	
A. Brand Electric	\$44,250
3. Plumbing	
A. Brenneco, Inc.	\$79,950
4. Combos	
A. Big Ben Builders, Inc. (general and plumbing)	\$326,800
• Commissioner Brown moved to take the bids under advisement, second by Commissioner Murtaugh. <u>Motion carried.</u>	

VI. HIGHWAY – Stewart Kline presented and recommended:

Unofficial Detour Reimbursement Contract

A. INDOT Reimbursement Contract SR 28 for CR 1000S - \$88,849.74

- Commissioner Murtaugh moved to approve the INDOT Reimbursement Contract for overlay paving as presented, second by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.

Morehouse Rd. Project

A. Warranty Deed – ROW Purchase Parcel 17 - \$26,000

- Commissioner Brown moved to approve the Warranty Deed and ROW as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh. Motion carried.

450 S – 500 E Reconstruction Project

A. Warranty Deed – ROW Purchase Parcel 2 & 2A - \$8,900

B. Temporary Easement Grant Parcel 2B, 2C, & 2D - \$7,950

- Commissioner Murtaugh moved to approve the Warranty Deed, ROW, and the Temporary Easement Grant as presented, second by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.

VII. RESOLUTION 2022-37-CM, Gateway to Hope - Reauthorization of the Syringe Exchange Program – Heath Department – Grace Paton presented:

Renewing the Tippecanoe County's Syringe Exchange Program for a period of not more than two years for a period beginning December 13, 2022, ending December 13, 2024.

Grace Patton, *Harm Reduction Program Manager with Gateway to Hope*, presented a slideshow detailing the Gateway to Hope program and all the benefits to passing this resolution. She outlined the principals and definitions of Harm Reduction and how this is implemented with every person who utilizes the program. She provided a background on the Street Outreach Team stating this service started in 2017 and provides community resources, education on naloxone, harm reduction supplies, training, and peer support groups. Grace continued her presentation by providing statistics on participants showing 508 active participants, and 299 new participants all within the last 12 months. She also explained the Mobile Clinic and how it provides syringe services, community events, STD testing, vaccinations, and on the go resources. Grace also shared her vision on what the next two years could look like, she advocated for expansion of the current facility and hiring more staff, more rooms for services and in house resources, a safe place for all participants, space for a clothing closet, and a workspace for people to complete job applications and have internet access to online resources.

President Byers asked Grace what preventive measures are being taken. Are youth groups, high schools, and teen-age groups being educated? Grace shared that in 2018 when she was certified as a peer recovery coach, they offered teen support groups through Grace United Methodist Church. Grace added if Gateway to Hope had more support and funding the teen demographic could be focused on.

Commissioner Brown asked Grace if Fentanyl is being found in all samples of illegal drugs and she stated that every Fentanyl test strip she has tested herself has come back positive. Grace added that at the college level even Adderall is showing traces of Fentanyl.

Commissioner Murtaugh asked Grace what happens when Fentanyl is detected, and she stated she advises every person to assume Fentanyl is in their drugs and to never use alone. She also shared there is a Never Use Alone hotline where they will ask for the caller's location and stay on the phone while a person uses in case of an overdose. Commissioner Murtaugh also asked if case numbers on Hep C and HIV could be provided. Grace mentioned Dr. Loomis has county wide numbers as Gateway to Hope's database only covers people who have come in to get tested within the last three months. Dr. Loomis stated cases

are stable since last year and added that studies have shown if a community has a syringe safety program people who use IV drugs are five times more likely to get into treatment than a community who does not offer this type of program.

Commissioner Brown stated that when the Syringe Exchange Program initially started Hep C numbers were on the rise and wanted to know how many people on an annual basis test positive for Hep C. Grace stated she had only four people in the last two years that are newly positive for Hep C. Dr. Loomis stated that the numbers are always moving and changing and there is hopefully a vaccine coming out in the next two years. He also added the problem with the numbers of Hep C cases related directly to our county are not just in the syringe program they are county wide so we cannot just use those numbers as a metric to say the program is being successful or not. Dr. Loomis asked the commissioners what the relationship to the program is by asking for the number of cases. Commissioner Murtaugh replied that was one of the goals of the program was to have lower-case numbers. Dr. Loomis stated that in 2016 there was a need for this program due to a huge spike in cases.

Commissioner Murtaugh asked how the data is tracked. Grace stated these numbers are from continued relationships and being involved with different community partners and their data bases. Dr. Loomis added that in 2020 the county had approximately 85 cases of Hep C and that is a slight decrease.

President Byers stated if anyone would like to speak on behalf of this resolution to please come forward

Rhonda Stein, *West Lafayette resident*, shared how her 25-year-old son passed away from an overdose of Xanax and Tramadol 10 years ago. At that point in time, 109 people died every day from an overdose. Today 10 years later 293 people will die today from an overdose. She continued by sharing how grateful she is for the Health Department and the Gateway to Hope program. Without them the numbers would be much higher. From 2020 to 2021 the county did not experience an increase in overdose deaths. She stated she does not have a financial interest in the program, and they need support.

Paige Logan, *STD Prevention Program Facilitator for Tippecanoe County Health Department*, Paige stated she partners with Grace to work together on expanding their programs. They work together by referring patients to each other's programs for specialized help and testing.

Khala Hochstedler, *Part time Health Nurse for Tippecanoe County*, shared how proud and excited she is for the program. The growth since 2016 is remarkable and the whole team is doing an excellent job. Khala stated when Grace was initially hired, she was hired for part time at only 8 hours a week and now Grace runs the program full time.

Jennifer Layton, *CEO of Lafayette Transitional Housing Center*, shared her support for the Gateway to Hope Program. In January 2022, the new Engagement Center opened on Salem, Union, 12th, and 13th streets and allowed the Gateway to Hope program to be apart of the health clinic. Both programs worked together with all staff member to provide full wrap around services. Jennifer has seen firsthand the great work that is being done and the intensive education about harm reduction and syringe services that is provided to LTHC staff. She also added that Gateway to Hope is truly in need of a new location since they are growing rapidly and need the space to maximize their efforts.

President Byers asked if there was additional questions or comments from the Commissioners

Commissioner Murtaugh recognized the staff for all their hard work and all the effort being put into the Gateway to Hope Program. He stated that he is not in favor of the syringe exchange program due to having strong reservations that the program could enable IV drug users and cannot vote in favor of the resolution.

- Commissioner Brown moved to approve RES 2022-37-CM, second by President Byers. Motion carried with a “No” vote from Commissioner Murtaugh.

VIII. ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICIAL’S BONDS FOR 2023 – Commissioner Brown presented:

1. Acceptance of Official’s Bond for the Clerk 2023
2. Acceptance of Official’s Bond for the Recorder 2023
3. Acceptance of Official’s Bond for the Sheriff 2023
 - Commissioner Brown moved to approve the bonds for Julie Roush, Kristy Martin, and Robert Goldsmith as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh. Motion carried.

IX. GM DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES, LLC – Commissioner Murtaugh presented:

- A. The December disbursement request for the project at Community Corrections and the new Jail building in the amount of \$1,151,864.10 to Hagerman Inc. and Trane US Inc. in the amount of \$28,159.92 for the solar field. Commissioner Murtaugh also added the final walk-through inspections for both projects will take place this week.
- Commissioner Murtaugh moved to approve the disbursements as presented, second by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.

X. GRANTS – Sharon Hutchison presented and recommended:

Permission to Accept Grant Funds:

- A. For Circuit Court, from Indiana Supreme Court for the purpose of 2023 VASIA Grant Award, in the amount of \$75,000, to continue the VASIA program in Tippecanoe County through December 31, 2023.
- Commissioner Brown moved to accept the grant as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh. Motion carried.
- B. For the Sheriff, from the Walmart Foundation, for the Canine Unit in the amount of \$2,000, for use in maintaining the health and wellbeing of the K-9 Unit.
- Commissioner Murtaugh moved to accept the grant as presented, second by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.
- C. For the Health Department, from the Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis, in the amount of \$13,000, for the continuation of Gateway of Hope for use in maintaining this service to Tippecanoe County.
- Commissioner Brown moved to accept the grant as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh. Motion carried.
- D. For CASA, from ICJI, in the amount of \$43,388.09, for the 2022-23 VOCA Supplemental Award, to assist with the continuation of the CASA program.
- Commissioner Murtaugh moved to accept the grant as presented, second by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.

XI. APPLICATIONS TO TIPPECANOE VILLA

- Mary Louise Perrine
- Lynette Callham
- Stephanie McIntosh
 - Commissioner Brown moved to approve the applications as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh. Motion carried.

XII. REPORTS ON FILE

- Tippecanoe County Weights and Measures November 2022 Report
- Tippecanoe County Building Commission November 2022 Report

XIII. UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

- None

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Kent Kroft, *Chief Information Officer, IT Department*, introduced the newest IT member. Frank Saputo is Tippecanoe County's new Service Desk Tech.

Commissioner Brown moved to adjourn. President Byers adjourned the meeting.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE COUNTY OF TIPPECANOE

David S. Byers, President

Tracy A. Brown, Vice-President

Thomas Murtaugh, Member

ATTEST:

Robert A Plantenga, Auditor 12/19/2022

Minutes prepared by Samantha Perez, Recording Secretary